scheme, Indian shipowner is required to place order on an Indian shipyard for one ship (in terms of DWT) against orders for every 3 ships from foreign yards. However, the productivity of the Indian yards is very low and their cost of construction is also quite high.

Unemployment of Shipmen

987. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of shipmen are rendered unemployed every year in the country because of less deployment of Indian vessels for foreign trade;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of Indian vessels used in our foreign trade during the last five years, year-wise, the number and percentage of shipmen rendered unemployed during the period port-wise; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Seamen are registered with Seamen's Employment Officers at Bombay and Calcutta. By and large there is no problem of unemployment in respect of seamen registered at Bombay. There has, however, been a reduction of job opportunities at Calcutta mainly on account of scrapping of vessels which were earlier operating from Calcutta and on account of withdrawal of operations by foreign shipping lines at Calcutta.

(b) Share of Indian ships in moving the country's overseas cargo is recorded in terms of overseas traffic tonnage moved, which is given below:—

Year	Total overseas traffic tonnage	Share of Indian flag	%
1985-86	86·35	29·95	34·7
1986-87	87·15	32·81	37·7
1987-88	88·07	34·30	38·9
1988-89	101·97	34·64	34·0
1989-90	107·87	39·28	36·4

Information regarding the number of seamen rendered unemployed with respect to Indian ships is not available as Indian seamen are employed both on Indian and foreign flag ships. The total number of Indian ships engaged in foreign trade as on 1-1-85 was 220 at Bombay and 83 at Calcutta. This number has come down to 203 at Bombay and 65 at Calcutta as on 1-1-91. The total number of seamen registered as on 1-1-85 was 21809 at Bombay and 9529 at Calcutta. This number came down to 19379 at Bombay and 8489 at Calcutta as on 1-1-91.

(c) Govt. have taken several steps to assist the Indian shipping industry. These include speedier clearance of acquisition proposals from private sector companies, revised age-norms for acquisition of second-hand ships, simpler scrapping/sale procedures, rehabilitation of sick shipping companies, provision of fiscal incentives, permission to acquire ships upto 25 per cent in excess of assessed requirements, permission to Indian shipping companies to place orders on Indian shipyards without reference to assessed requirements, etc.